March 5, 1978

Dear Harold,

Belatedly, I write. It seems that for the past few months I have had an acute case of letterphobia and have allowed many of my correspondences to lapse. From now on, I hope to be more in step.

With that aside, how are you both? Fine I hope, despite the nasty weather. For a while even we were touched by some of the stuff you've been getting. Nothing, certainly, as bad, but rain, cold and generally blah type days.

Both Nikki and I are well...she keeping busy with her photography and I with my writing. Oh, Scott Malone asked Nikki to take a picture of the Boom-Boom Rooom over at the Fountainbleau (which she did) for use on the BBC. I'll tell you, that kid's tv connections amaze me. Already he's done something on the assassination for CBC and now BBC. Also, the New Times piece. He gets around.

Just the other day I finished a piece on terrorism here. A local historian-researcher friend of mine here is a buff on Rolando Masferrer (the ex Cuban 'Tiger' and Batista henchman) and has filed many FOI requests on him with various agencies. In the course of that, ~~one~~ CIA comes up with a Coast Guard document mentioning a planned invasion of Cuba circa 1974 which ~~they~~ characterized as the most credible attempt to date. According to the CG memo and a State Dept. reply on it, Masferrer and Teofilo Babun (local Cuban shipping magnate and owner of the Johnny Express) were going to be leading the thing. Perhaps, the local cops speculate, Castro retaliated by killing Masferrer a year later. Also, the possibility exists--more probably, they say--that exiles did the hit. The date of the memo, May 13, 1974, a month after another Torriente death--Jose Torriente--suggests to the cops that he might have been the original leader of the plan, but was killed when he learned the feds had discovered the plot and decided to change or cancel his groups plans. Masferrer and Babun had been sub-leaders of Torriente's Cuban Liberation Front. Whatever, the most interesting thing about the story is that the local cops--the primary investigators--never knew of the planned invasion. They say it throws a whole new light on the Torriente and Masferrer killings and complain that the feds never clued them in. So much for law enforcement cooperation!

Just the other day I finally heard from the FBI on my 4 year old FOI request on Somersett and Filteer. They called me about a month ago to tell me that they were ready to reply and had found seven volumes (250 pages each) on Somersett's activities as an informant. For cost purposes, I decided

to limit my request to datxx on the years 1960 on. That, they say, comes to 462 pages or $46.20. As I am very poor this month, I am trying to get my Miami Beach editors to spring for it, and I think they will soon. Will let you know what I come up with.

Did you get anything on Hilteer or Somersett that you can send me? If so, let me xxxx know and if there are any copying costs I'll get them to you. (oh, I forgot to mention, the FBI spokesman said that the Bureau never received a copy of the tape and there fore couldn't furnish one to me. Comment?)

On another front, I am currently in limbo with the CIA and my request to them. As I think I told you, I sent them a rather massive request for info on McCloney, Benton, Ed Arthur, James and Jerry Buchanan and a number of xxxxxxx people. I applied for a fee waiver when they ax asked for a x $200 deposit and eventually was turned down--despite valid arguments, I feel. So now I am in the process of securing an attorney to take them to court on the matter. (By the way, Ed arthur's story is in the May issue of Soldier of Fortune which is on the stands now. The thing is hardly an award winner, but I believe the gist of what he is saying is true.)

Did you see the program on 60 Minutes about the 'Castro Connection?' It involved a Miami xxxxx company, IWC, and a man named Guillermo Hernandez-Cartaya. Cartaya, a Brigade 2506 member, was alleged to have been involved with Castro in a lucrative cocaine smuggling operation. What do you think of it? I know that it is only in the earliest stages of developemtn and that no proof has been shown, but does jx jibe interestingly with some other speculation on Castro and his activitdes. Most notably the George Crile piece of May '76 in the Washington Post Magazine which went into the idea that Santos Trafficante might have been Castro's agent here in Miami. Are you familiar with that?

Well, as it's getting late--2:30am--I had better sign off and get some sleep. When you get a chance drop us a line to say hello.

Best Regards,

Jim

P.S.--xxxxxxx As my story on the Rasberrer killing will not be coming out until March 25 I would appreciate it if you would keep the story to yourself for now. Thanks.